



BY APPOINTMENT  
TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN  
MEDALLISTS

DIRECTORS.  
D. F. SPINK  
P. J. SPINK

# SPINK & SON, LTD.

5, 6 & 7, KING STREET,  
ST. JAMES'S,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

ESTABLISHED 1772.



BY APPOINTMENT  
TO HRH THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH  
MEDALLISTS

TELEPHONE  
WHITEHALL 5275 (SINES)  
CABLES  
SPINK, LONDON S.W.1

*Namismatic Dept.*

D.C./SN:

April 19th, 1962.

M. A. Gearty Esq.,  
Museum & Art Gallery,  
Stranmillis,  
Belfast 9,  
N. Ireland.

Dear Sir,

We are enclosing the master cast of a Charles II St. Patrick farthing struck in gold. We are anxious to try and find out whether the die of this extremely rare coin ties up in any way with any known die of the ordinary St. Patrick's Farthings struck in copper.

We, therefore, would be most grateful if you could kindly check up with the specimens in your Museum, and let us know whether you can establish the die identity for either the obverse, reverse or both.

Yours faithfully,  
for SPINK & SON LTD.

148/20

30 April 1921

Messrs. Spink & Son, Ltd.,  
5, 6 & 7 King Street,  
St. James's,  
DUBLIN S.W.1.

Dear Sirs,

Thank you for the plaster cast of the Charles II 5s. (patric) scribbled  
struck in gold. I have compared it with the twenty examples in our collection  
but none of them are from the same die. It is just possible that there is  
one in Dublin from these dies and you might send one to Mr. W. O'Sullivan,  
at the National Museum, Kildare Street, Dublin. Incidentally, as I right is  
thinking this gold coin is for sale and if so, could you let me know the  
price you are asking for it as I may have missed it in your circular.

May I retain the cast until I hear from you again?

Yours faithfully,

Director.



BY APPOINTMENT  
TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN  
MEDALISTS

DIRECTORS.  
D. F. SPINK  
R. J. SPINK.

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5, 6 & 7, KING STREET,  
ST. JAMES'S,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

ESTABLISHED 1772.



BY APPOINTMENT  
TO H.R.H. THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH  
MEDALISTS

TELEPHONE  
WHITEHALL 5275 (5 Lines)  
CABLES  
SPINK, LONDON S.W.1

*Namismatic Dept.*

DEL/SV: ✓

April 27th, 1962.

Director,  
Ulster Museum,  
Stranmillis,  
Belfast 9,  
N. Ireland.

Dear Sir,

We thank you for your letter of April 26th, and we are interested to hear that the plaster cast of the coin we sent you is not from the same die as any of the twenty examples in your collection. We have already sent a plaster cast to the National Museum in Dublin, and no doubt we shall be hearing from them in due course.

With regard to the overall utility of the coin, although it is our property we are at present reserving it for a client of ours, and we therefore cannot offer it for sale.

Yours faithfully,  
for SPINK & SON LTD.

December 12, 1962

Glouster County Historical Society  
Woodbury, New Jersey

Gentlemen:

I would like to obtain a copy of the pamphlet  
you published in 1947 entitled "MARK NEWBY".

This was compiled by Frank H. Stewart.

Would you be kind enough to let me hear from  
you with respect to the foregoing.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

February 27, 1963

Mr. John J. Ford, Jr.  
176 Hendrickson Avenue  
Rockville Centre  
Long Island, New York

Dear John:

I am writing up an article for the Numismatist on a Mark Newby matter and wanted to know whether the manuscript of "Varieties" which Walter was working on was ever completed or deposited in any library. Would you answer me by return air mail as I feel I should mention its existence.

Thanks.

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

Mar. 1963

2402 Grove, Berkeley 4, Calif.

Dear Eric

(on loan from JJF)

I have the silver Newby forgery; my own condemnation of it (as written to Ford) is on the basis of style, false edge reeding, and workmanship. The arrangement of beasts on the rev. of all genuine Newby fathings is the same, and unlike the arrangement found on this silver piece; the forger did not know what he was copying, and so we have the top bird flying the wrong way, the bird behind the pegasus represented only by a meaningless line, the lowest mammal facing the wrong way, etc. Some genuine Newbies have letters engraved in, or at least some letters engraved, though the vast majority (as you know) have them made from punches. But the very sharp contrast between thick and thin elements on this silver piece is found on no genuine Newby. The obv. crown should have three fleurs-de-lis on the circlet, a detail authentically copied from the crown of Charles I which was the prototype of the crowns on the genuine Newbies (via the Charles I rose farthing tokens of Ireland); the forgery does not have them, but represents them by spread-out groups of jewels. And, as you point out, the interior of the caul should be plain. I surmise that the three jewels shown on the forgery are misplaced from the three diamonds which should appear on the circlet (below, and between the fleurs-de-lis).

When I was working on the Boyd coll'n of Newbies, I was not far enough along to have photographs made, and Boyd's death prevented further investigation. I will resume this work some time after I have my doctorate.

Use any or all the above data for your own writeup, crediting me wherever or however appropriate. The weight of this silver specimen is 110 1/4 grains, which is within known limits for genuine ones and thus inconclusive. (It's the same one of which you sent photographs)

As for your other letter: My needle on the Virginia coinage was not untimely when I wrote that article. Hewitt had it in his hands for nearly a year. Your Museum Notes reprint a prived many months afterwards. I am glad to know that the 1/24 Real matter is being rewritten. (Incidentally, in the ANA 1961 auction, the one at which His Insufferable Eminence James "Trends" Kelly refused to let me bid, there was a fine horizontal 4 variety, described only as a 1/24 Real. His loss in not getting more than \$7 or so for the coin; my loss in not getting the coin. But his loss more, as I've spread the story around, and it did not rebound to JK's credit.) I have since then seen a second ET HB specimen, but no others of either variety. Possibly Picker can tell you more. I am inclined to think, now, that over 80% of the 1/24 Real coins in collectors' hands are restrikes. § John has long since sent my very incomplete ms. of the Crosby notes to Meriden Gravure, and we've heard nothing for about a year. The latest plan was to reprint Crosby in entirety, replacing his errors with my corrections & additions in a different typeface, and redoing the plates in entirety. If it would come your corrections, though I probably have many of them in my notes already. The recent study of British coins & coinage methods has forced quite a lot of rethinking on my part.

Oh, come OFF it, Eric! Numismatic knowledge & num. ethics are of interest to numismatists. The mail I get is certainly evidence of the fact. It's the soi-disant "Professional Numismatists" who are basically used-car dealers at heart who are not interested in anything except selling at a top dollar. And I refuse to call these parasites "professionals"; in fact, the article I sent them a few weeks ago on num. ethics makes that exact point, that the title "professional" means nothing (save that its wearer has decided to award it to himself) in the absence of a recognized standard of performance, competence & ethics. If Hewitt finds the article too hot to handle, it goes to the Numismatist, Coin World and Numismatic News. You got all hot & bothered about restrike peddlers; I regard this problem as small in comparison to the common one of misdescribing, misgrading, extortionate pricing, failure to make meaningful guarantees, and in general refusal to accept responsibility for one's commitments. The whole question of restrikes is a subclass of that of identification and authenticity of merchandise. I refuse to strain out the gnat while swallowing the camel.

Hoping you are the same,

W. J. F.

March 19, 1963

Mr. Walter Breen  
2402 Grove Street  
Berkeley 4, Calif.

Dear Walter:

Thank you so much for your nice letter and I will put your name as one of those who cooperated with respect to the silver Mark Newby.

If you have not sent the item back to John yet would you look at it and tell me the relationship of the two sides. If the point of the crown on the obverse points to 12 o'clock and you spin it on the vertical axis does the figure of St. Patrick point clockwise about 10 degrees or 20 degrees?

I have no idea whether the animal just under St. Patrick's hand is a bird, or an insect, or what, and have described it in my article as a "jet age double swept back wing aircraft".

I am certainly looking forward to your article if Lee Hewitt will publish it and I agree with you that the restrike problem is minor compared to the phony auction and other sales techniques.

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

Dear Eric

Noted your reply in CW. The reason I didn't moralize in the letter column was simply that I was then finishing a 7500-word article on dealer ethics for the Scrapbook. Hewitt has had it for a week or so. I think it should clarify my position better than any summary in CW. It should also make a few pairs of ears burn; though no names are named, characteristic practices are spelled out. I even question the ethics of having redbook & Trends Pages prices made up by dealers personally involved rather than by independent teams of market researchers. Nor is it merely destructive criticism; the article ends with a code of ethics which is more inclusive than anything of the kind I have seen before. I'll probably be persona non grata at conventions after this thing comes out. ... JIF showed me the phony silver Mark Newby. The poor edge reading is the quickest diagnostic feature, and the relief is lower than on any genuine MN, but it's still dangerous. \$ Report had it that Foxy Steinberg is selling phony Athenian owls for \$4 apiece, not marked as copies in any way, & supposedly very deceptive. ~~Wwwwww~~ best,



Eric P. Newman, Secretary etc.  
Edison Bros. Stores  
4007 Washington Ave.  
St. Louis 2, Mo.



March 4, 1963

Dr. Henry Fattel  
8300 Hudson Blvd.,  
North Bergen, New Jersey

Dear Dr. Fattel:

You will recall that in the February Numismatist I wrote up a modern Oak Tree shilling forgery. A friend of mine indicated that you had one at the Metropolitan Show in March of 1962 and possibly showed it to Richard Picker. I asked Dick if he knew you and he may have recently contacted you.

I am most anxious to know the source from which you received this Oak Tree shilling as there is a very questionable St. Patrick farthing, in silver, which has appeared.

I find that you have advertised early in 1962 in the Exchange and Mart, in London, and I am wondering if you would advise me from whom you acquired the Oak Tree shilling and whether you have received any St. Patrick farthings, in silver, and from whom.

I was told that the Oak Tree shilling and a St. Patrick's piece were advertised for sale in the Exchange and Mart but cannot locate the advertisement. Are you a subscriber to this paper? and do you know of any such ad?

I will be most appreciative of your prompt cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

HENRY C. FATTEL, M. D.  
8300 HUDSON BOULEVARD  
NORTH BERGEN, N. J.

March 10 1963.

Dear Mr. Newman:

Your letter received and of course, I am very much interested in what you are trying to do. I think U.S. Colonial coins are the most interesting coins in numismatics. They do not have the wide spread interest they should have and all these fakes and reproductions will kill off many collectors.

I read your article of the Oak Tree shilling forgery and I feel that the one I had was similar altho I cannot be 100 % sure. I did show it to Dick Picker in New York, but he shrugged it off as not being sure because he did not have his book with him.

I was in London for 4 days in 1961 and for 5 days in 1962. I have subscribed to Exchange & Mart since July 1961 and still get it and read the coin column. I throw an occasional ad in the Exchange & Mart. First I will say this - I have read every issue of Exchange & Mart and there has never been an advertisement to sell an Oak Tree Shilling or silver St. Patrick farthing since July 1961 to the present time.

I received the Oak Tree Shilling from one of the small mail order dealer - collectors. ( there are about 6 of them that I have been doing some buying from). I cannot be sure which one it is because I threw away the old correspondence. He was honest about it- he did not claim that it was genuine- he said " he paid quite a bit for it and showed the coin to 4 dealers- 2 said that it was genuine and two were dubious. He said that since I was near New York- I could get it checked up and he sent it to me on approval" I checked up the variety with Noe's book and it did not match exactly. Also I did not like the color of the metal- the entire coin did not look right to me. I showed it to Dick and to Empire Coins at the same time- both were non- commital. I then took the Shilling to the A.N.S. in New York and they said that they did not think that it was genuine. So I returned the Shilling to the fellow who sent it to me.

He then wrote me that he was putting some coins into Glendining Auctions in London and that he would inclose the Oak Tree Shilling with the others for whatever it would bring. This same Oak Tree Shilling was put up for auction at Glendinings Sale of October 31 1962 as Lot # 313. described as follows

# 313. U.S.A. Massachusetts, Oak Tree Shilling , 1652  
( this piece from unrecorded dies and may be a fabrication )  
very fine condition.

At the auction it brought a price of 12 pounds ( \$ 34.00 ) Very obvious, it was not thought to be genuine since it brought in so little. I do not know who bought it,

I have not seen or been offered any other Oak Tree Shillings.

HENRY C. FATTEL, M. D.  
8300 HUDSON BOULEVARD  
NORTH BERGEN, N. J.

Re: My silver St. Patrick Farthing.

Through one of my contacts, I was given the name of Anthony Foley, he was said to have some U.S.A. and Canadian coins for sale. I should have started by saying that this was in London on July 2 1968. I called Mr. Foley and arranged to meet him in my hotel room in London. Mr. Foley is interested in the buying and selling of guns- in the meantime he knows coins fairly well and buys lots or collections when the price is low enough.

Mr. Foley told me that he had bought a collection of English and colonies which included some U.S.A. and Canada. On the phone I said that I was interested only in U.S.A. and Canada. He brought these to the hotel. There was some Canadians, quite a lot of Indian Head Cents and some U.S. Colonials. Most of the Colonials were common like Hibernias, Connecticut, Double head copper. The only real nice colonial was the inclosed silver St. Patrick farthing. There was no Massachusetts silver in the lot at all.

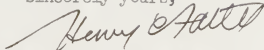
Otherwise, I have never seen any other silver farthings and have never been offered any.

Mr. Foley does not advertize and does not do much dealing in coins.

\*\*\*\*\*

The inclosed silver farthing seems genuine to me and I will be very much surprised if you tell me it is a fake.

Sincerely yours,



HENRY C. FATTEL M. D.

March 13, 1963

Dr. Henry C. Fattel  
8300 Hudson Blvd..  
North Bergen, New Jersey

Dear Dr. Fattel:

I am very grateful to you for your letter of March 10, 1963 and the opportunity to examine the St. Patrick farthing. It is a forgery, in my opinion. It is identical in die variety to the other silver piece which arouses suspicion.

I would appreciate it if you will give me the names of the six mail order dealers-collectors, in London, with whom you do business, unless you can remember the man from whom you received the Oak Tree forgery. There is a man in Southbourne-Bournemouth, Hants, England, who might have been your source.

I would appreciate knowing from you what you paid for the silver St. Patrick farthing.

I would also appreciate knowing which one of your contacts put you in touch with Mr. Anthony Foley.

These matters are so serious that they must be carefully run down and I am very pleased that you are giving me your cooperation for that purpose.

I will give you more detail on the St. Patrick farthing and send you the picture of the other piece within a few days.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

March 15, 1963

Mr. John J. Ford, Jr.  
176 Hendrickson Avenue  
Rockville Centre  
Long Island, New York

Dear John:

I understand that you have seen the Mark Newby farthing in silver which seems to have modern English origin. Did you receive yours from a Canadian dealer?

Would you be nice enough to tell me the source of yours and as to whether it did or did not have edge milling. I have seen two specimens, one with no edge milling at all, and one with artificial notches.

How about writing me, old boy; you have been awfully quiet.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. MENNAN

EPN/atb

March 18, 1963

Mr. Elston Bradfield, Editor  
The Numismatist  
P.O.Box 3491  
Chicago 54, Illinois

Dear Brad:

I hope you do not have a hang over from the flu, as I have had. In any event my article entitled "A Snake Breeds a St.Patrick's Farthing" is now complete and will be mailed in a day or so for your review. It was written on St. Patrick's Day. I, naturally, may make some changes but assume that this will go in the May Numismatist as I could not make the dead line for the April number. There will be one picture.

I am glad I did not rush this article as some new information came in which was exceedingly helpful.

I presume you have not forgotten my request for a number of extra copies of the February issue.

Kindest personal regards,

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

March 18, 1963

Dr. Henry C. Fattel  
8300 Hudson Blvd.,  
North Bergen, New Jersey

Dear Dr. Fattel:

I am enclosing, for your information, a photograph of the other false St. Patrick farthing which came from England along with two Oak Tree Shilling forgeries.

I received a letter from Walter Breen and he agrees with me that the pieces definitely are forgeries.

I am writing it up for the May Numismatist and urgently need the amount you paid for the coin. I will not use your name or the name of anyone else in the article except to thank you and a few others for their cooperation. Would you be nice enough to send me that detail and, of course, if you can remember how you were referred to Anthony Foley.

I am still retaining your piece until I get an excellent photograph of it.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

March 22, 1963

Mr. Elston Bradfield, Editor  
The Numismatist  
P.O. Box 3491  
Chicago 54, Illinois

Dear Brad:

Enclosed is the article for the May Numismatist entitled "A Snake Breeds a St. Patrick Farthing". I am also enclosing the plate which should be enlarged to two diameters. I would like to have the plate returned to me.

If there are any last minute changes I will communicate directly with McCormick-Armstrong as neither party who bought the St. Patrick farthings will tell me what they paid for it.

Please note the comment on the footnotes at the end.

If there is anything further required, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb



March 22, 1963

Mr. Edmund J. Vaskas  
The Evening Gazette  
Worcester 1, Mass.

Dear Mr. Vaskas:

I would like to know if you have any objection to my disclosing to Spink & Son, of London, the name of Gordon White, as they have been requesting over and over again the name of the dealer who put the Oak Tree forgery into the Glendining auction. Mr. Fattel said that an Oak Tree forgery was sent to him and then returned to England and then put in the auction. I believe Mr. Fattel is disturbed because the St. Patrick piece he bought from "Anthony Foley" is a forgery and he is vague about who referred him to Anthony Foley as well as vague about who sent him the Oak Tree shilling. Another reason I believe this name should be disclosed is that the information with respect to the Exchange and Mart advertisement is wrong. He reflected the Exchange and Mart for April and there was no advertisement as indicated by White so that I am convinced it was not there. The only advertisement which was there was that of Mr. Fattel who, in the Spring of 1962, advertised to buy Anglo-American material, including St. Patrick pieces.

There is a great deal of other false material which was in the December, 1962 Glendining auction and which was withdrawn.

The entire matter is so serious that I think it is wrong not to let Spink's have the information. Mr. White may be perfectly straight forward but perhaps he is being used by someone.

I feel that it is proper to send the information to Spink and hope you will agree with me.

I am enclosing a copy of the article going into the Numismatist on the St. Patrick forgery. As you say, I am certainly getting a lot of mileage out of your experience.

Cordially,

EPN/atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN

HENRY C. FATTEL, M. D.  
8300 HUDSON BOULEVARD  
NORTH BERGEN, N. J.

March 23 1963.

Eric P. Newman,  
St Louis, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

I am very sorry to hear that my silver Mark Newby is a forgery. When I bought it, I did not know of the existance of any forgeries and it looked pretty good to me. I bought it from Mr. Anthony Foley with a lot of Indian Head Cents etc and it was the only Colonial of any consequence- the others were common Washington bust coppers. I bought all coins at 2/3 of 1962 Red Book and since it catalogued at \$ 135.00 in fine- I paid approx. \$ 90.00 for the silver Mark Newby. As I wrote you Mr. Foley is not a dealer and does not do too much in coins and he did not have any other powerhouse Colonials. He was introduced to me by a woman I met in London- she was not a dealer or collector- but when I mentioned " coins" to her she gave me Mr. Foley's telephone number as a man who had some coins for sale. After your article is published in the may Numismatist, I will send a copy to Mr. Foley and try and get the return of my money for the silver copy of the Mark Newby.

I cannot give you all the names of the dealer collectors that I have done business with- because there are many of them. However if the name was given to me- I could probably say whether or not that person sent the Fake Oak Tree Shilling to me , I have thrown much of my correspondence away, but would recall the name.

I know Mr. White of Southbourne- Bournemouth. In Summer of 1961, I visited and had dinner with him in Bournemouth. In 1961, I purchased quite a few coins from him but no colonials except a few Woods Hibernias He occasionally sends me a few U.S. or Canadian coins, but I never got any high powered Colonials from him. He knows that I am interested in Colonials and I am sure that he would let me know if he had any of them. From what I have seen of Mr. White, I am sure he is absolutely honest and would not knowingly sell any spurious coins.

If I get any more news or information of any sort on these or any other forgeries, I will let you know at once. I agree with you whole-heartedly that these fakes must be traced and stopped at the source.

Sincerely yours,



HENRY C. FATTEL M. D.

March 26, 1963

Mr. David F. Spink  
Spink & Son  
London, S. W. 1, England

Dear David:

As to the Oak Tree Shilling forgery and the St. Patrick forgery, I am going to tell you what is in the letters I have received. It will be confusing. It is important that you know these things as I hear that Glendining had to withdraw as forgeries many items from their Dec. 1962 sale. Glendining knows a key fact but apparently are hiding behind ethical principles.

1. Gordon White, an English coin dealer, indicates that he saw an ad in the Exchange & Mart covering three Oak Tree Shillings and a St. Patrick farthing. He bought the three Oak Tree Shillings from Miss J. Block in April, 1962. On seeing them he thought they might either be electros or old struck copies by Wyatt and before buying wrote a friend in America who cabled him that they were worth \$35 each as Wyatt copies. In the summer of 1962 White sold two specimens to Edmund Vaskas (an American vacationing in England), for \$30.00 each, as electros. White had sold the third as a fake to the American friend by that time. White seems thoroughly honest in the transactions but his recollection as to the ad and as to how he contacted the woman who sold the coins to him needs refreshing.

2. Fattel (an American) received an Oak Tree forgery by mail from a small English mail order dealer whose name he will remember if I give him a list of such names. He dealt with about six of them in 1961 and 1962 and threw away the correspondence. Please send me a list of the smaller dealers in England. The dealer said he had shown it to four English dealers and their opinions on genuineness were divided. Fattel showed it to two American dealers for an opinion and they were equally non-committal. He sent the coin back and the dealer who sent it to him put it in the October Glendining auction where it was described as questionable and sold.

Fattel was in London in July, 1962 and met a woman who he does not identify as to name, place, or anything. The woman told him of Anthony Foley who deals in old guns and coins. Foley was telephoned by Fattel and came up to Fattel's hotel room where Fattel bought the St. Patrick farthing as genuine for about 30f and also some junky Indian head cents. Fattel says he will return the coin to Foley after the publication of the article I have written, but has not said whether he has or hasn't Foley's address or how he can contact him.

3. A Canadian coin dealer bought a group of coins from a small English dealer in the Fall of 1962 and in it were two Oak Tree Shilling forgeries and one St. Patrick forgery. I saw all of them because they were sent to another friend of mine for authentication and he sent them to me to see. The Canadian dealer will not disclose his source in England.

These two struck types are truly dangerous forgeries and whoever is making them is going to make other pieces. You need Glendining's cooperation as that will clear up some of the foregoing. You should be able to find Foley as the coin people seem to know him.

Have you talked to Baldwin or Seaby about this as they could perhaps be helpful. I think this is a problem which needs real effort and attention and I am glad you are so interested. Let me know what develops.

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

P.S. Would you let me know if a copper halfpence of James III the Pretender with a 1719 reverse identical to the George I issues is common, scarce, or rare. I cannot find it in the standard references.



# THE NUMISMATIST

Official Magazine of the  
AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION  
ELSTON G. BRADFIELD, Editor  
P. O. Box 3491  
CHICAGO 54, ILLINOIS

March 26, 1963

Dear Eric:

Received your latest fanzine article and am preparing it for the printer. The text is good, as usual, except I do not care for the references to reptiles in title and first paragraph. These references do not add to but rather take from the quality of your work, and are not in keeping with the article. I hope you will rewrite both, if you can see my point.

Also, I am enclosing a copy of letter and ms. written by Gordon White. It is self explanatory. I'll run it in my issue. (Does White, by chance, happen to be one of those you refer to in the St. Patrick story?)

Best personal regards

*Snack*

P.S.: I have your ten copies of Numis wrapped and will get to the postoffice one of these days.

March 28, 1963

Dr. Henry C. Fattel  
8300 Hudson Blvd.,  
North Bergen, New Jersey

Dear Dr. Fattel:

I am returning herewith the St. Patrick farthing in silver which you were kind enough to send me for examination. This will be written up in the May 1963 Numismatist and I have given you and others credit for having been of assistance in this matter. I am sorry to disappoint you with respect to my opinion as to the coin. I am glad that you recognize the seriousness of the problem with respect to forgeries and are cooperating. I will obtain the list of the various English small dealers shortly so that you can determine which one sent you the Oak Tree forgery.

It would be helpful if you could tell me the address of Anthony Foley since you plan to contact him and also tell me if you recall how you met the woman who referred you to him.

I am also enclosing a photograph of your piece.

I was shocked to receive from the Editor of the Numismatist the enclosed letter and article from Mr. White. You will note that, although his actions are in good faith, his logic is contradictory and the article has certain erroneous facts and certain erroneous conclusions.

Again, I wish to thank you for your helpfulness and I hope that I will hear from you with respect to the further details.

Sincerely yours,

CERTIFIED MAIL

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb



Mr. Elston Bradfield, Editor  
The Numismatist  
P.O.Box 3491  
Chicago 54 Ill.

Mar 27, 1963

Dear Brad:

I tried to be slightly humorous in my article because I think the subject needs it. Many people commented on my attempts at levity in the Fantastic 1804 Dollar and it is for that reason that I used the snake legend. It ~~does~~ does have a relevancy because the snake legend is on the coin and the forgery is venomous. I have rewritten the first paragraph to avoid any possible libelous inference, but have retained the reptile similes. Please go along with my eccentricity as I believe it will be read by more people that way. Telephone me if there is any difference between us now. A new page 1 marked \*\*\* is enclosed.

I am very grateful for your sending me the text of Gordon White's letter and discussion. I have written a short commentary which I would like to have you insert after his discussion. I never mentioned his name in my article and have never written him. He is quite inaccurate and I feel I am entitled to answer him in accordance with the enclosed text. He contradicts himself when he says that reputable collectors and dealers do not particularly want to sell fakes and then goes on to argue that ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ copies of beautiful and rare coins can be sold. No one objects to museums and others having collections of fakes for comparison to determine what are originals.

You asked me if White is the one referred to in the St. Patrick story. He definitely is not. My direct informants have had a difficult time getting the facts I have. The data from White has been obtained ~~by~~ by me writing Vaskas, Vaskas writing White and White answering Vaskas and Vaskas writing me. White says he got a lead on the coins from an ad in the Exchange and Mart and it cannot be located. I have had Spink search twice. White gives his source as an unknown woman by the name of Miss J. Block. If you want all the strange contacts and vague answers I will send you a summary of what I know but not for publication. Even W Vaskas admits ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ there are many more facts for Sherlock Holmes to find, particularly since White says there was a St. Patrick in the mysterious ad which no one can find. White never had the St. Patrick as he only bought the Oak Trees and he may not have seen it.

The hotel room story is still more intriguing. The name given by the man is a coin dealer unknown to Spink. What do I get mixed up in all this for? Is this numismatic research?

The mail this week brought in three more new forgeries and all I know is that numismatists ought to be ashamed not to get some Code of Ethics passed. Cleveland unanimously passed the TAMS code. Others will follow. Does the ANA have any position or have they even discussed the matter? I have no intention trying to be a reformer, but numismatics surely needs it. Wait until Breen sends you his article on professional dealers!

Kindest regards as always,

epn/epn

March 29, 1963

Mr. Elston Bradfield, Editor  
P.O.Box 3491  
Chicago 54, Illinois

Dear Brad:

I received a letter from Edmund J. Vaskas, to whom I sent a copy of my recent article. He is a newspaper man and likes my "nice eye-catching lead and a very good ending". Perhaps he likes "corn", too.

My wife is somewhat on your side but says it should be changed only if I can get another title which is just as startling. De gustibus!

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb



April 2, 1963

Dear Russ:

I will be glad to send you  
a resume of the article to be  
in the May Numismatist entitled  
"A Snake Breeds a St. Patrick  
Farthing".

Sincerely,

*From the desk of*  
ERIC P. NEWMAN

HENRY C. FATTEL, M. D.  
8300 HUDSON BOULEVARD  
NORTH BERGEN, N. J.

April 12 1963.

Dear Mr. Newman:

On checking your list of English small dealers and on rechecking my list again and again, I came to the conclusion that it must have been Gordon White who sent me the Oak Tree Shilling . I would not take an oath on it- but as I say checking and rechecking, no other dealer seems to fit in the picture.

As to Mr. Anthony Foley and the Mark Newby silver piece. When I got to London about June 30 1962, I bought a copy of the " Exchange & Mart" which is on sale at the larger newstands. I noticed a current ad by an English women advertizing some better date Indian Head cents and a few better Canadians for sale at a very reasonable price. Since it was a London address, I called her up. She told me on the telephone, that a Mr. Anthony Foley had bought all of her coins, and that Mr. Foley bought and sold coins so that I probably could purchase those coins and possibly others. I do not know the womans name and never met her. She gave me the telephone number of Mr. Foley. I called up Mr. Foley and arranged to meet him at my hotel where we did our dealings.

When the May issue of the Numismatist comes out, I will write to Mr. Foley and see what I can do and possibly do to find out the origin of the Silver Mark Newby piece. I will let you know the result of my correspondence.

Sincerely yours,



HENRY C. FATTEL

**Coin World**  
THE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE ENTIRE NUMISMATIC FIELD  
SIDNEY NEWS BUILDING SIDNEY, OHIO

April 23, 1963

Mr. Eric P. Hawman  
Edison Brothers Store, Inc.  
400 Washington Avenue  
St. Louis 2, Missouri

Dear Eric,

The Coin World we print on May 3 (pre-dated May 10) would be the earliest issue to be distributed after May 1. Our deadline for copy for this issue would be April 27. We will be privileged to use a story--as always.

Sincerely,

COIN WORLD

*Grays*

Margaret Russell (Mrs. Mardou)  
Executive Editor

dar

April 24, 1963

Mrs. Margo Russell  
Coin World  
Sidney News Building  
Sidney, Ohio

Dear Margo:

I promised Guss that I would send to you a resume of an article to be published in the May Numismatist. You may feel free to revise my comments in any way you find desirable.

A picture is enclosed so that you may make a cut.

Kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb

April 24, 1963

A St. Patrick farthing in silver which appeared in England in 1962 is disclosed as a modern forgery in an article by Eric P. Newman in the Numismatist for May, 1963. The humorous title to the article is "A Snake Breeds a St. Patrick Farthing". The two known specimens of the forgery are lacking in the proper edge milling which was machined on to all St. Patrick farthings in copper and silver. Crude and uneven edge milling was applied by hand to one of the forgeries to make it appear as close to genuine as possible. The forgeries are struck copies from meticulously made dies and were promptly sold to Americans.

Information since the article was written indicates that the forgeries were sold as genuine pieces for about two-thirds of the Red Book price and contacts with the original sellers were made through an advertisement in the "Exchange & Mart", an English trade publication. Since there is no illustrated list of die varieties of St. Patrick pieces neither the seller nor the purchaser had any way of comparing the forgeries to known pieces.

The article also shows, for the first time, that the genuine St. Patrick farthing has no American status. It proves that only the halfpenny of the same type was introduced by Mark Newby in New Jersey in 1682 and therefore is a true American Colonial. The farthing, however, was labeled as "an Irish brother" who did not come to America. The humorous reference to the snake in the title and elsewhere relates to the snake pictured on the coin being driven out of Ireland by St. Patrick and alludes to the action of the forger being "snaky".

The article is a companion piece to one in the February Numismatist exposing a recent bogus Oak Tree shilling (Coin World February 8, 1963). In both articles the author acknowledges the cooperation of others who have given him the oppor-

tunity of studying the pieces in question and helped him in assembling the facts, these being Edmund J. Vaskas,<sup>of</sup> Worcester, Massachusetts, Richard Picker, of New York, Dr. Henry Fattel, of North Bergen, New Jersey, David<sup>F.</sup>/Spink, of London, Walter Breen, of Berkeley, California, and Robert Vlack, of West Peabody, Massachusetts.

June 10, 1963

Mr. David F. Spink  
Spink & Son  
3, 6, 7 King Street  
St. James's  
London W. 1, England

Dear David:

I have now seen the April, 1962 correspondence between dealer, Gordon White, and Miss Jane Black, 74 Leith Mans., Grantually Rd., Maids Vale, London W. 9. This woman sent White 2 Oak Tree forgeries and a St. Patrick Farthing forgery. She sold him the Oak Trees and promised to sell the St. Patrick for 3£ 10 sh. She failed to sell the latter to him as he had to return it after examining it. Her correspondence is very astute while she professes ignorance. She had 2 Oak Trees, she says, and tries to show they were different sizes and thus different types. She asks for cash or money orders - not checks. She is the advertiser in the Exchange and Mart. She probably knows Anthony Foley and others participating in the distribution. I merely wanted you to know all this as forgery is the order of the day. White, scold innocent but was knowingly willing to buy bad coins.

Please be nice enough to send the Public Records Office 23 shillings for which check is enclosed. On with research.

Do you know if the 1861 Dollar actually sold in the Wolfson Sale?

Kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

Eric P. Newman  
400 Washington Avenue  
St. Louis 2, Missouri  
U.S.A.

EPN  
atb

Lewes 5 July 1966

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YOUR REF.

OUR REF.

Sale #89 Lot 365 1 Mar 62 Sale  
"An Irish St. Patrick Faithing struck  
in gold, about VF & A copper ditto  
with brass plug. Fair. (2) "

Auction record shows £500 sold to Spink

(77) 1559 (27)  
Lot #314

Sent in by Sutton by registered mail in England along with 1851 Gold Dollar US  
#314 (£6)  
US 1837 43 x4 55 US Cents.  
US 1859, 61, 63, 80 92 (2) 16 Cents & 2 Roman coins of Augustus & Caligula

in envelope left

in a register & envelope with instructions to sell for him.

MEMBERS OF THE ARMS AND ARMOUR SOCIETY & THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Recipient of which never thanked or commented.

Fryer was auctioneer who said he looked it  
up in the Red Book <sup>in the catalogue</sup> it.  
Browers then belonged to Wallis who died  
a few months after the sale (Nov 1962)

Byers was at the sale & knew of the coin before

The remittance for sale 103, 105, 110 was to

M. Sutton, Esq (Morris Sutton)

c/o B. H. Grover

23 Beauchamp Road

East Moseley

Records of  
early sale  
remittances  
auth accts on hand  
for Mrs Wallis

July 25, 1966

Mr. William Seaby  
Belfast Museum  
Belfast, Ireland

Dear Mr. Seaby:

I wanted to thank you for your cooperation during the short time we were together and particularly for your kindness in furnishing me with the citation of a matter concerning the St. Patrick coinage.

When I went to the British Museum, I looked the item up. So you do not have the same trouble I did, you can correct the citation to: Proceedings and Papers of the Kilkenney and South East of Ireland Archaeological Society, New Series, Vol. II (March 1858, page 55/56). I checked a similar item in Simon, and it conforms.

I hope our paths cross many times in the future and if there is anything I can do for you at any time, please do not hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/a tb

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Numismatists

Aug 27, 1966

THE ADELPHI

1-11 JOHN ADAM STREET (GROUND FLOOR)

LONDON, W.C.2

Telephone TRAFALGAR 2455

Telegrams NUMISMOS LONDON W.C.2

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VALUERS FOR

PROBATE, INSURANCE, ETC

Dear Eric,

Thanks for letter and remittance, check US\$ 61.<sup>58</sup>  
+ cash £21 - to settle your a/c.

Charles Hornum is in town, there's always someone,  
and he told me a bit about the A.H.A. Convention,  
quite exciting! As for 'unigue speeches' I believe  
you made one of them. The boys seem to be quite impressed.

Bryan Horne is on holiday, he is one of the few  
that can afford a month away from business. He is  
due back any day and I will prompt him as soon as  
I see him. I know he met Sutton in town but he  
went away the same afternoon.

If you have off prints of any of your articles  
in forgeries I would be very pleased to buy or exchange  
copies. There were one or two in the Numismatist that  
I have in mind.

Best wishes to you and yours.

Sincerely,

Albert H.

September 7, 1966

Mr. Albert Baldwin  
A.M. Baldwin & Sons, Ltd.  
The Adelphi  
1-11 John Adam Street (Grnd. Flr.)  
London, W.C. 2, England

Dear Albert:

In accordance with your request, I am enclosing a group of photoduplicates of articles you requested. First read the Oak Tree article, then read the snake article, then read the comment and rejoinder on the Oak Tree article which follows the snake article, and then read the elephant article. These will give you the meat of the problem. If you need more fuel there are three others. There are no off prints and, thus, I cannot send them.

I certainly look forward to hearing from Mr. Grover and will appreciate it if you will continue to urge him to cooperate.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

EPN:mb  
enc.

\* Columns by me 1964-65 in Coin World helped kill the proposal mint 45,000,000 silver dollars at Denver. Realizing that the proposal was largely made ~~xxxxx~~ on behalf of Vegas and Reno gambling casinos, I made the suggestion that these casinos have their own tokens of distinctive design, redeemable at 25 pieces within their boundaries alone, and usable in slotmachines etc. there only; these would be carried off in quantity by customers, creating free advertising. This suggestion has been to date put into effect by at least 17 casinos and it is understood that the others will follow suit; the Franklin Mint under Gilroy Roberts is manufacturing the tokens incorporating xix sophisticated anticounterfeiting devices. They have already become collectors' items.

I am not exaggerating about my columns having helped kill the proposal, or about their helping inspire the manufacture of the 4size tokens. I have talked to Treasury officials in and out of the Secret Service and am informed that all of them from Eva Adams and the present Sec'y of Treasury read CW very carefully. There was also the bitz in the CW letter-column some months back about how the casino operators were following my column quite thoroughly and regularly, and how some CW readers were sending the columns to the senators and congressmen concerned. O'ne senator's secretary objected that "the guy has a beard" and was told "don't let that fool you." And so forth.

\* John M. Willem: THE UNITED STATES TRADE DOLLAR came out in a revised form under a Whitman Pub. Co. imprint, with additional ~~xxxx~~ information supplied by me.

Incidentally, Eric, the original coppers brought over by Mark Newbie may have been only the St. Patrick halfpence, lately declared uncurrent in the Isle of Man, but I am certain that the farthings eventually circulated here too, coming in shipments with other junk coppers to the USA and Canada. I know this because of the frequency with which the II & things turn up, in worn condition, in lots side by side with: (a) Gen. III ctft halfpence, (b) Machine Mill imitations, (c) Blacksmith tokens, (d) state coppers especially of Connecticut, (e) anonymous British ~~xxxxxx~~ junk generally ~~xxxxxx~~ associated with Canada and datable to the 1810-30 period. These are in lots brought in by noncollectors or found in estates or the like, in general nonnumismatic sources. My own guess would be that the St. Patrick farthings were shipped over here in later years because they were copper of weight not too far from that of the usual halfpenny-size junk circulating in England and Ireland and periodically shipped here. Genuine Tower Mint halfpence weighed a little over 152 grains apiece, counterfeits range from about 75 to 130 grains, & St. P. farthings from about 80 to 125 despite their smaller size. It is probably significant that they seldom turn up in such noncollector lots associated with Rosa Americana coins; most probably the latter deteriorated too quickly. I have not seen any Machin's Mill, Nova C. or N.J. issues overstruck on them, which may or may not mean anything; the ~~xxxx~~ St. P. issues can never have been too common despite the large number of dies used--the dies did/ not last long, and heavy breaks are often ~~xxxx~~ seen. Possibly their size deterred their use as blanks for overstriking. Even Tower farthings, marvelous dies and liards are very rarely seen as undertypes for these 1789-90 issues

From Eric's Box  
1960-65 Amer. Coins & Medals

October 11, 1966

Mr. Bryan H. Grover  
23 Resuchamp Road  
East Molesey, Surrey, England

Dear Sherlock:

Thank you for your fine report on your preliminary sleuthing on the Gold St. Patrick matter. I believe you have turned up an interesting inconsistency already. Apparently Mr. Morris Sutton said to you that he thought the coins would fetch only a nominal number of pounds and in the next breath he says he bought them for a speculation. Certainly he knew the gold itself was worth a few pounds. A discreet inquiry as to what he paid for them and from whom they were acquired will be most interesting.

When your next report is ready tell Dr. Watson at 221 Baker St., and then write me.

Sincerely,

Eric W. Newman  
P.O.Box 14020  
St. Louis, Missouri 63178  
U.S.A.

CC:  
Mr. Albert Baldwin  
A.W. Baldwin & Sons  
The Adelphi  
1-11 John Adam St., Ground Floor  
London, W.C. 2, England

EPN  
atb

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LONDON, W.C.2

Telephone TRAFALGAR 2455

Telegrams NUMISMOS LONDON W.C.2

MEDAL DEPT

Telephone TRAFALGAR 1310

26th October, 1966.

Mr. E.P. Newman,  
Numismatic Education Society,  
6450 Cecil Avenue,  
St. Louis 5,  
MISSOURI U.S.A.

Dear Eric,

Somewhile ago you were kind enough to send me photo-copies of your articles on forgeries in the U.S.A. series.

I was very glad to have these and have read them carefully and hope that in the future I will be able to recognise these pieces when they come along. If I am ever in doubt I will refer to you. In the meantime I would thank you for these articles which have been added to my library on this difficult subject.

Also you were kind enough to send me a copy of a letter you addressed to Brian Grover. Whether or not he has provided you with more information I do not know as it is a little while since he was here, though he does call from time to time and I will see what the position is the next time he calls. If he has not given you further information I will encourage him to do so.

Please give my best wishes to your wife and I hope you both are well and that her business in antiques is flourishing.

Yours sincerely,  
for A.H. BALDWIN & SONS, LTD.



December 14, 1966

Mr. Albert Baldwin  
A.B. Baldwin & Sons, Ltd.  
The Adelphi  
1-11 John Adam St.  
London, W.C.2, England

Dear Albert:

Thank you, very much, for the clipping with respect to the Westminster Mint and Die Company, of which Mr. Anthony Foley is Chairman.

The article states that Mr. Foley designed and produced the pieces. I am wondering if you could have some sort of inquiry addressed to the Westminster Mint and Die Company and inquire who was the artist and who was the engraver and whether the company has minting equipment of its own. Perhaps such an inquiry could be made in connection with possible purchase of some of the pieces. I would be most interested in the answer.

As you probably knew, I have had no further answer from Mr. Grover with respect to the place where Mr. Morris Sutton acquired the St. Patrick farthing.

You will recall that we talked about a Wood's halfpenny, in silver, and I am wondering if you would forward a specimen to me on approval. I told you that I had one and would like to see if yours is the same variety. A good rubbing might serve as well.

I wonder if you will do my sister a great favor. She and her husband are going to Greece and Turkey. The best guide books at this time are the Guide Bleu. She would like very much to obtain a copy of each immediately and we cannot locate them here. Naturally, they want them in English. Would you be kind enough to see if Foyle's, or one of your other booksellers, has them and post them to:

Mrs. Henry G. Steele  
446 Berry Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60657  
U.S.A.

Please send the statement.

Thanks for keeping me up to date.

Kindest regards to all of you.

Sincerely yours,

Eric F. Newman  
P.O. Box 14320  
St. Louis, Missouri 63178  
U.S.A.

EFN/etb



LaPerle Avenue  
Plaistow, New Hamp. 03865

November 7, 1967

Dear Eric,

Long time no hear, I hope that all is well. We are all fine and up to our neck in everything.

I have enclosed a summary of all the known varieties of the St. Patrick Halfpence. Walter Breen in his works came up with also 9 different varieties, but whether or not they are the same varieties is not known. I have tried communicating with him on several occasions but he chose to ignore me. I would guess that they were the same though there is always the possibility we might have a degree of overlapping. Summarizing what you have is the following:

1-A of which I have examined 5 specimens.

4-B	"	2	"
4-E	"	6	"
5-U	"	5	"
5-F	"	4	"

I hope one day to complete the Farthings, though that may still take some time.

How are the Virginia Plates coming along?

Very sincerely,

Bob

ST. PATRICK HALFENCEOBVERSEREV.

1.

•FLOREAI• \*\*\* •REX•

A

B

LARGE LETTERS - Head on harp opposite right upright of R. R leans right, the right upright extends below base of E. T leans left with no bottom serif and ends close to crown. Two stops in front of star, the first visible on sharp specimens. E in REX closer to K. 14 Harpstrings.

2.

••FLOREAI ••\* :REX•

C

LARGE LETTERS - Head on harp opposite space between R and E and is very close. O touches tip of bust on harp. RE of FLOREAI leans strongly left. Base of E almost touches head on harp and A. Right upright of R extends above base of E. URE and I visibly recut. Lower dot of colon before REX is smaller than upper dot and is weak. RE of REX leans left. A touches the milling. 15 Harpstrings.

3.

FLORE AI •REX•

C

LARGE LETTERS - Head on harp opposite O and is very close. L slightly high and leans right. R leans left and is much closer to E. AI close with A touching the crown. REX is well spaced with EX about parallel. 17 Harpstrings.

4.

...FLOREAI• ••\* •REX•••

B

C

E

SMALL LETTERS - Head on harp opposite R. First and last stop very weak and only visible on sharp specimens. Stop after I very high and closer to crown. O slightly low and closer to R. R is high and leans right, and is parallel with E. T leans right. A closer to I. In REX, E is much closer to R and is about parallel with R. 14 Harpstrings.

5.

...FLORE AI •REX•

D

F

SMALL LETTERS - Head on harp opposite O and is very close. FLO is very close to the harp. AI smaller than other letters with base of I higher than base of A. Base of E's slope down. Of first three stops, the center is the larger. The stop in front of REX is weak and is close to the tip of the spine on the crown. 16 Harpstrings.

DIE COMBINATIONS

1-A

3-C

4-E

1-B

4-B

5-D

2-C

4-C

5-F

## A.

••••• GREX

LARGE LETTERS - Hand points to upright of E. Shamrock under space between E and C. Top of staff ends more under R than E, with all three touching. CCC well spaced with last E leaning left. G is low and closer to the mitre than R, and leans left. R & A all connected. Listeners head in space immediately after A. No stem of shamrock extends below hand.

## B.

:ECC: GREX.

LARGE LETTERS - Hand points to upright of E. Shamrock under right side of E with stem turning left and pointing to center of a listeners head. Top of staff ends under R, but is closer to left base of E. C touch. R high and leans left. Ek about parallel. Top of colon may blend into a listeners head. Stop after E and K may be weak or missing.

## C.

• EEE • GREFX

MEDIUM LETTERS - Hand points to E with a small finger pointing to left upright. Shamrock under C with stem touching a listener's head. Top of staff ends under R and is very close to R and E. R & E progressively smaller. R is large and high, leans left, and is much closer to C which is very low. Small r leans left. CCC normal with die breaks developing across center of letters.

## D.

•ECC GREX•

SMALL LETTERS - Hand points to space between stop and E. Shamrock under E and is very close. Small stem curves left. Top of staff ends under, and touches, right upright of R. All letters well spaced. First C is recut and closer to 2nd. C than E. Stop after GREEN is weak and may be missing.

## 3.

ELLE: GREX

SMALL LETTERS - Hand points at upright of E. Shamrock under left part of C with stem curving left and pointing to the back of a listeners head. Top of staff points to space between R and E and is close. G leans left, especially the E. Colon leans strongly right with respect to the E. Y is low and is distant from R. R is parallel to E. A touches the milling.

$\bar{F}$ .

:ECC. GREN

SMALL LETTERS - Hand prints to space between colon and E. Shamrock under right side of E with stem curving left and down in front of a listeners face. Top of staff ends under space between R and E. E, L and G one size, R & A smaller. First E cut over an A with the bottom left of the A extending to the left of E. Small R leans right. Small E leans left. Both R and E very close to the staff.

July 8, 1966

Albert Baldwin told me that Bryan Groves told him that Spink purchased the gold faithing with the understanding that they had a reasonable time to check its genuineness and could return it if it was false in their opinion.

8 July 1966  
St George's Hotel

Talk with Grouse over the telephone

Langham Place London W1 Langham 0111

MOL 1723

Grouse said the only West India's price returned to him was for Second Four in Amsterdam.

Sold St Patrick had a plain edge.

When Gold St Patrick came to Wallis Wallis

Longless Liddel was advised by Grouse.

Liddel did to the coin personally after coming to see it first.

Thomas Sutton sells silver, formerly sold at Germany Market, here in Brighton. Is from a fine Jewish family according to Grouse.

Grouse was sitting on a gold Roman counterfeit and can't return it. No know about Syrian cts.

Has Elephant London taken and sold it to John Hayward a young dealer. It was brilliant red.

Grouse definitely promised to cooperate in running this matter down by

(1) Asking Wallis + Wallis to get permission to see the check or check stub paying the £500 to Sutton

(2) Locating Sutton and asking him whether he put the gold farthing in the safe

Grouse is to advise me & Albert Baldwin but otherwise to keep the matter reasonably private.

## ~~St George's Hotel~~

MEMO RE ST PATRICK GOLD FARTHING

~~Langham Place London W1 Langham 0111~~

on July 5, 1966 I visited the Office of Wallis & Wallis  
All Saints House, 210 High St. Lewes Sussex, England  
and asked to see the 196x ~~sale~~ catalogues. Mr. D. S. Fryer  
one of the present owners (with S. & Butler) asked me what I  
was interested in and I told him the gold St Patrick's farthing.  
He told me that he was the auctioneer at the sale and <sup>at about the time</sup>  
worked for Mr. John P. S. Wallis who died later the same year.  
He said the <sup>undiscovered advertisement</sup> <sup>small</sup> <sup>with instructions to sell.</sup>  
can come in ~~many~~ <sup>other</sup> ~~ways~~ <sup>ways</sup>.

Congratulated mail from ~~to~~ someone in England. The letter was signed by [unclear] and I never thanked or commented on it. It came in my self ~~the~~ <sup>my</sup> ~~letter~~ <sup>paper</sup>. I asked who the seller was and he said he didn't know. ~~I~~ <sup>he</sup> explained I needed any pedigree information available because it was such an important item. I also asked for the catalogue to see the description. He told me he looked the coin up in the Red Book and saw it was very rare and that he described it. He wondered if it sold too cheaply. After asking one of the girls in the office ~~the~~ located the auctioneer's record on the old files in a back room and checked sales #87 through 90 until we found the item as lot 365 in Sale # 89 held March 1 and 2, 1967. The description of the ~~lot~~ <sup>coin</sup> was.

"An Irish St. Patrick Farthing struck in gold, about VF and A copper ditto with brass plug. Far. (2) "

On the ~~other~~ <sup>interior</sup> record sheet the price was £ 500, the buyer was listed as "Spink", the seller was <sup>listed as</sup> "Sutton". We then checked for other items sent in by Sutton <sup>for that sale</sup> and found the following ~~also owned by~~ <sup>also owned by</sup> lot # 37K 1851, <sup>U.S.</sup> Gold Dollar (lot sold for £ 6)  
lot # 351 U.S. 1837, 1843, 1844, 1855 large cents, 1859, 1862, 1863, 1880, 1892 (+), 1896 <sup>small cents</sup> and 2 Roman coins of L. Verus — (lot sold for £ 4.)

It was confirmed by Fry that these were the coins <sup>which were sent in</sup> ~~accompanying~~ the gold ~~piece~~ <sup>minted</sup> farthing.

I then asked if we could find Sutton's <sup>full name and</sup> address or <sup>circumstances</sup> the <sup>check</sup> Sutton and was told that all records of the Wallis regime were turned over to his widow's accountants in London and I would have to ask her <sup>widow</sup> for permission to see them. I then asked if they had any ~~other~~ <sup>other</sup> record <sup>and</sup> to ~~look~~ <sup>look</sup> and ~~the~~ <sup>one of the secretaries</sup> ~~looked~~ <sup>looked</sup> and we found a ledger card reading

M Sutton, Esq  
c/o B. H. Brown  
23 Beauchamp Road  
East Mosely

the money earnings <sup>East Mosely</sup> ~~the~~ covered only sales # 103, 105 and 110 for <sup>modest</sup> ~~modest~~ amounts and related to earnings only ~~and both pay a same~~ <sup>house hotel</sup> ~~Fry~~ was





3rd October 1966.

Eric P. Newman,  
P.O. Box 14020  
St. Louis, Missouri 63178  
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Newman,

Many thanks for your pleasant and informative letter. I regret the delay in answering but this was due to our holiday. We actually left home the very day you wrote your letter and returned on the 10th September to a great deal of correspondence, including yours. As there were many rather urgent business letters to answer and I was due to visit Lewes on the 14th, where I hoped to obtain a few more details first hand, I delayed answering you in the hope that a little more information would come to hand.

Anyway, here is a brief summary of what I have so far found out regarding the St. Patrick's affair. As you have heard from Albert Baldwin I obtained the new address of Maurice Sutton from Wallis and Wallis and arranged to meet him in London on the pretext of showing him a few Roman coins. Having not seen him since his move to Brighton we had a few reminiscences, during the course of which I mentioned the U.S. coins including the St. Patrick <sup>A</sup>, he at once admitted they were his and that they were put in the sale for Wallis to lot, as he wished. Sutton had not reckoned the whole lot being worth more than a nominal number of pounds and was shocked when he received notification of the prices realized. I then asked him if he had collected the lot of coins together & then decided to sell them. He was quite clear in stating that he had speculated on the lot on one of his trips around the provinces and even remembered town he made the purchase, this was Worcester. As all this was spoken in a friendly atmosphere I had no wish to grill him, as it would appear that he had no reason to hide anything. On my return from holiday I visited Lewes for the coin sale and had a long conversation with J.R. Butler, the coin & medal expert of the Wallis partnership. He had made enquiries for me during my absence on holiday and informed me that the coins from Sutton did come in for catalogueing and sale with no special instructions, also that the cheque for payment was made out and paid



to Maurice Sutton. This is as much as I have been able to find out so far but I have got an open appointment to meet Sutton in London during the coming two weeks. I will then endeavour to get the name and address of the firm from which he purchased the lot.

Again, my apologies for the delay,

Sincerely yours,



B.H. Grover.

First fold here →

Sender's name and address:

B.H. Grover

23 Beauchamp Road

East Molesey, Surrey

England

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY  
ENCLOSURE; IF IT DOES IT WILL BE SURCHARGED  
OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

← Second fold here →



Eric P. Newman,

P.O. Box 14020,

St. Louis, Missouri 63178

U.S.A.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

December 13, 1967

Mr. Lester Markin  
65 West 56th Street  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Lester:

I feel that you might wish to follow up on the U.S. slave  
import writer and thought you should have some information I  
have.

In the 1 March 1962 auction sale of Wallis & Wallis,  
Leves, England, Lot 365 was an Irish St. Patrick farthing  
struck in gold. I did not know about it when I wrote "A Snake  
Breads a St. Patrick's Farthing" in the May, 1963 NUMISMATIST.  
In that article I pointed out that the silver farthings which  
had appeared in England in 1962 were forgeries.

When I visited Albert Baldwin in 1966 he humorously  
mentioned the gold item and said he wouldn't have touched it.  
It had been bought by Spink for £500 at the sale and plaster  
casts sent to the B.M. and others for comment. No one had  
seen any such variety before. When I saw the casts I realized  
it was from the forged dies I had described. I took a train  
to Leves and asked the auctioneer who conducted the 1962 sale  
what the consigner's name was and who received the money. He  
said it was sent in unsolicited by registered mail in a group  
of common coins and when it brought £500 (the highest price  
coin sold in Wallis and Wallis History), the owner never even  
thanked or commented. We looked up the records and found that  
the coin was submitted by M. Sutton, Esq., c/o W.H. Grover,  
23 Henschen Road, East Mosley. The auctioneer told me he  
knew Maurice Sutton but that Sutton couldn't have submitted  
the piece. I asked why not and he became angry and left.

Then I wrote Grover and have a letter from Grover  
dated 3 Oct. 1966 saying that Maurice Sutton did submit the  
coin; that Sutton met Grover in London in 1966 and Sutton  
said that he had thought the coin only had a nominal value.  
At the next meeting Grover promised to ask Sutton where the  
coin came from and that was the last I heard from Grover although  
Albert Baldwin, (who knew Grover for many years) asked him to  
answer me also.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

Page 2

December 13, 1967

Mr. Lester Gerkin

Grover was the person who called Spink's attention to the coin. Grover said he was present at the sale and I asked, to no avail, who bid against Spink. Grover just dropped the whole matter.

Now that you told me that Bryan H. Grover is the owner of the H. Blake forgery, I think it is not coincidental. He seems to be the front man for sales of forgeries. I suggest you write him and ask him where he obtained the ingot. I also suggest you find a reason not to return it if you get it back from the police.

Please send me a photo of it in any event.

It is always nice to see you. Never a dull moment.

kindest regards,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPM

sth

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

June 18, 1968

With respect to St. Patrick Farthings it seems to me that Walter Green's comment (CN April, 1968, TM-7) should be clarified. He stated that St. Patrick farthings have been found "by the hundreds in non-collector accumulations consisting principally of worn out halfpence, Ross Americans and Wood's Coinages". This was mentioned to prove American circulation of St. Patrick farthings. I had pointed out in an article in the May 1963 numismatist that only St. Patrick halfpence and not farthings were included in the New Jersey authorization to Mark Newby in 1688.

I think readers would be interested in documentation of any such accumulation being found in America. I know of no newspaper or other written mention of circulation of St. Patrick farthings in America. Accumulations found in England or Ireland would not be probative as all the coins were of English or Irish origin. Likewise the presence of worn eighteenth century copper coinage in accumulations would certainly indicate no seventeenth century circulation. While Green is not asserting that St. Patrick farthings circulated in seventeenth century America, it would be helpful if anyone knows of any evidence of their eighteenth century circulation in America.

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THE COLONIAL NEWSLETTER

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Dear Patron:

Thank you for your recent contribution to The Colonial Newsletter. We hope that CNL lives up to your expectations during the next year and that it will serve as a useful vehicle for all of us interested in Colonial American numismatics.

As we have said before -- we also need your participation in the form of letters, comments and observations, and photographs of interesting items which you may have in your cabinet. To be useful as a "newsletter" it is necessary that such material be included in addition to the more lengthy papers which have appeared in recent issues. So -- please write!

Thanks

JCS

Dear Eric:

Thanks also for your letter of June 18 regarding Ereen's comments on the St. Patrick farthings " by the hundreds " etc. I plan to publish your letter in the next issue as this statement certainly requires challenge, and may in addition generate a Research Forum item specifically requesting the data.

Several times in the past, Eric, I have almost published several of your comments in your letters to me in CNL, but have concluded that they were intended as personal observations to me and not for publication, and so I have not used them in CNL. It would be helpful to me if you could specifically identify items that you would like published. I am not refering to such things as the observations on Research Forum questions, but to more general correspondence.

Two extra copies of the April 1968 CNL are in the mail to you for your library.

I will be traveling from time to time between Huntsville and Seattle where our headquarters are located. Most of the flights have a stopover for an hour or so in St. Louis and perhaps we can arrange a meeting sometime as I go through. I have not taken a real vacation in years - just odd days from time to time or a long weekend, and this does not make for very solid planning. The aerospace business is quite hectic and as always - time is my most important problem.

Best regards, -

Jim Spilman



TO	Eric P. Newman	TITLE OR ACTIVITY	MAIL STOP
FROM	J. C. Spilman	TITLE OR ACTIVITY	MAIL STOP
SUBJECT	CNL letter - Circulation St. Pat. farthings in 18 <sup>th</sup> Century America		DATE
MESSAGE:			6-24-68

Eric - Attached is markup of your June 18 letter -- Could you please clarify for me the sentence I have circled in red pencil? This statement has me puzzled and perhaps rewording would permit me to understand this particular point.

Thanks also for the telephone call - why don't you write up the Jarvis - Boulton letters on the Farthings as a technical note for CML - this would be very informative to me personally.

Best regards,

JCS

Since all accumulations mentioned included quantities of worn eighteenth century copper coinage such as Woods, Ross Americans and George I, II and III pieces this would not indicate seventeenth century circulation of any St. Patrick pieces which were included in it.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

September 21, 1972

Mr. Richard Picker  
P. O. Box 123  
Albertson, Long Island, New York 11507

Dear Dick:

In New Orleans, in August, 1972 you asked me to examine a St. Patrick Farthing, in silver, with the nimbus next to St. Patrick's head. The coin had no pedigree and you purchased it at the convention. It showed substantial wear.

Although we have never seen the Johns Hopkins specimen, we have examined many silver St. Patrick pieces of several varieties and the Boyd example in gold. I have written an article on counterfeit copper St. Patrick pieces and have checked the background of another alleged example in gold.

The new nimbus piece has a notched edge, as is normal. It shows no cast texture. It is our opinion that the coin is genuine and an excessively rare variety of that Irish coinage.

I have examined the X-ray phosphorescence data which you obtained and find it to be in confirmation of our opinion.

We hope we have been helpful.

Sincerely yours,

EPN/atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY



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PDM/HF.

Mr. E.P. Newman,  
6450 Cecile Avenue,  
St. Louis 5, Mo.,  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

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Bankers National Westminster Bank Ltd  
60 4005 24525146  
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8th January 1974.

Dear Eric,

It was nice to see you and have a chat when you called the other day. Yesterday I tackled Brian Grover regarding the St. Patrick gold piece. He told me that a client of his who buys Roman coins, who is a retail jeweller, asked him to dispose of a lot of junk which he had acquired through his jewellery business. Grover suggested putting the property in to Wallis & Wallis. At that time doubtless French was something of an ogre in business to someone like Grover, so as far as he was concerned it was easier to place it at Wallis's where he was well known and where he knew there would be a demand from America for such a speculative piece as a gold St. Patrick. Nowadays he would undoubtedly place such an item with Glendinings. He remembers the sale well. Douglas Liddell attended the sale with his wife and bought the piece doubtless against an American bid in the book. Grover positively did not bid and, as far as he can remember, he was not paid by Wallis, for he thinks that he did not take a commission for doing a customer a favour.

He was quite frank and I am sure has nothing to hide. But where does this get us if the piece is false? Who made it and why? Certainly the jeweller had no idea that there was a "sleeper" in his junk. Is it in the Norweb collection and, if so, has Emery May been told that it's wrong?

All for now.

Yours sincerely,



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

January 15, 1974

Mr. Peter Mitchell  
A. H. Baldwin & Sons  
11 Adelphi Terrace  
London WC2N 6BJ England

Dear Peter:

It was most pleasant visiting you when I was in London, and renewing old times.

Thank you very much for the report on the St. Patrick gold matter. I am glad that Brian Grover discussed it with you. I feel that it is important for all of us to do numismatics a favor and assemble all of the information we can on this matter, and you and Mr. Grover can be of great help. When I talked this matter over with Albert Baldwin in 1966, he told me that he wouldn't have touched the coin. I had written an article and had it published in May, 1963, pointing out that false dies had been made for the St. Patrick piece, but I only knew about silver St. Patrick pieces at the time I wrote the article. I had not heard of the gold specimen, nor do I know anyone else in America who had heard of it when it was auctioned in 1962 at Lewis.

Perhaps you can ask Mr. Grover some further questions such as what is the present business address of the jeweler who submitted the coin? Where did the jeweler obtain the coin and what did he pay? When and where did Mr. Grover first see the coin? Who catalogued the coin? Did Mr. Grover know that the coin was being mailed in by the jeweler to Wallis & Wallis? Who advised Spinks that the coin was in the auction? Was Mr. Grover at the auction sale? Was the check for the proceeds sent to Mr. Grover's home? How does Mr. Grover know that the book bidder was not the jeweler himself or someone else, as the allegation that it was an American bid is apparently based on speculation only. Why didn't Mr. Grover tell his client that the piece was very rare if Mr. Grover felt that it was? Could Spinks have returned the item if they didn't think it was right? You asked who made it and why. A person by the name of Anthony Foley commercially dealt with the silver forgeries, and it is important to know whether the jeweler knows him, or whether you or Mr. Grover know him, or whether he is still around. Peter Seaby showed me some copper forgeries made in the 1961-1962 period which have just turned up recently, and Seaby was not familiar with them in the past.

You asked me whether the gold piece was in the Norweb collection. I have only heard that it was. Whether she has been told that the piece is false is unknown to me as I have never discussed it with her. If she asked me about it, I would give her all the facts.

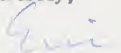
Do you know the address of Melville Phillips, who in 1972 wrote an article on coin scales? If so, I would appreciate your sending me his address. I need a swinging pan for a box type fold up sovereign balance, and hope I can buy a broken one with the needed part, or even a complete one of the type I need. Do you know anybody who deals in these scales?

Mr. Peter Mitchell  
January 15, 1974  
Page 2 -

I presume you have sent me the coin weights and the odd date half pence which I have picked out.

My very kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Eric P. Newman

EPN:jah

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FDM/HF.

31st January 1974.

Mr. E.P. Newman,  
6450 Cecil Avenue,  
St. Louis 5,  
Missouri,  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Dear Eric,

In spite of the fact that you thanked me for the report on my conversation with Brian Grover I get the impression that you don't believe a word of it. One has to assume that the St. Patrick is genuine and prove it false. Why isn't it genuine? Just because somebody made some silver ones doesn't prove every gold St. Patrick, and there may be a box full in this country for all you know, is false.

Brian Grover tells me he has discussed this with you before now, but I will answer your questions in order.

1. The jeweller's name is M. Sutton and he has a shop at 91 Portobello Road, London W.11.

2. The coin was bought on a buying trip, probably between Cheltenham and Birmingham, probably in a parcel costing £30.

3. Brian Grover first saw the coin when he was given the coins to dispose of. Having decided on Wallis & Wallis they were probably sold four to six weeks later.

4. Brian Grover catalogued the coin. He seems to remember there was a Californian gold dollar and a common but poor European ducat in the property other than the rubbish.

5. Brian Grover delivered the property personally to Lewes.

6. Spinks, like us and most other coin, medal and militaria dealers (especially in the U.S.A.), subscribe to Wallis & Wallis catalogues.

7. I have already said that Brian Grover was at the auction sale.

8. As already said, he is not sure of the details of payment but thinks Mr. Sutton was paid direct by Wallis's without him taking anything out of it.

/9. I have

Mr. E.F. Newman.

2.

31st January 1974.

9. I have no idea where the book bid came from. It may well have been from America or put there by Spinks themselves for they may well have had a bid from the like of John Ford who subscribes to the catalogues. If they wish to buy for another client (the piece is with Mrs. Norweb) they would have to make some arrangement to top any bids they might have received. Certainly Brian Grover remembers Liddell suggesting he did not bid as Liddell wished to buy the piece. At that time Grover used to buy quite a few things at Wallis's as Spinks' agent and he would not wish to upset Liddell when Liddell asked a favour of him.

10. Brian Grover did tell his client there was a rare speculative piece amongst the junk, which is why it was catalogued separately.

11. I don't know what arrangements could have been made with Wallis's for the return of such a piece. I do not doubt that Liddell would have told them before the sale that he would have to check the piece out.

Incidentally, I don't think Albert ever saw the piece. He saw it in the catalogue, put the catalogue on one side and by the time he had got back to it the coin had been sold some days before. That it was made to make money doesn't hold water if it was bought for £15 by Sutton. I know Brian Grover very well and he knows Sutton very well and in my book they are not in collusion. Your move.

I have never heard of Melville Phillips so cannot help you. For one reason or another, not the least being rail strikes and short working days because of lighting etc., the weights are in my office somewhere but they will be sent off soon enough.

Yours sincerely,



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

February 5, 1974

Mr. Peter Mitchell  
A. H. Baldwin & Son  
11 Adelphi Terrace  
London WC2N 6BJ England

Dear Peter:

Since you say it is my move you may start the time. I move St. Patrick's pawn to King David Six. Check.

I think your response to my inquiries was most thorough. I sent the article I wrote on the Silver St. Patrick to Albert on 7 September 1966.

I am glad Maurice Sutton is still in business. The gold St. Patrick being bought between Cheltenham and Birmingham corresponds with my data that it was said to have been bought in Worcester. I do not know how the L30 you indicate he paid for the parcel of coins corresponds with my data that the whole lot was not considered by Sutton to be worth more than a nominal number of pounds. It looks salted. You indicate that Grover was given the coins to dispose of and he delivered them personally. The auctioneer's data is that they came in directly by Registered mail with instructions to sell. There was an 1851 Gold U.S. Dollar (Lot 374) and a group of U.S. Cents of rubbish quality and two Roman Lucius Verus pieces (Lot 351). The proceeds were paid to Sutton care of Grover according to the auctioneer's records. The auctioneer was shocked that he never received a thank you for the phenomenal proceeds, the highest any coin ever brought in Wallis & Wallis auctions.

What you did not answer is gently repeated. Does or did Grover know or do business with Anthony Foley, or does or did Maurice Sutton know him? A silver St. Patrick from the identical die was sold by Foley to an American doctor in 1962. Do either Grover or Sutton know Jane Block who had Massachusetts silver forgeries which were sold through Foley and others at the same time?

The real question you ask is why isn't the gold piece genuine? Do you think that an unknown obverse and an unknown reverse should be discovered in gold and in silver in 1962, and have different characteristics from the original series. No one has challenged my conclusions before. Have you read my article?

Mr. Grover apparently once owned a G Blake gold ingot and I wonder where he acquired that? That would be helpful in my Sherlocking.

You said that Albert never saw the gold piece and that is what he told me. I certainly wish he had because then you would not doubt me.

I have no feeling that Grover did wrong. I do not believe he knew the piece was bad. I do know that Grover has been cooperative. I am trying to get to the source of this forgery through Grover as well as other pieces of similar mysterious source in England. Please thank him for me when you ask him for more information.

Spinks checked the coin and even though no identical dies could be found by their inquiries they apparently thought it genuine.

I am grateful for your help. If any further data is obtained as asked above, I would be pleased to receive it.

Your Baker Street friend,

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**NUMISMATISTS**

PDM/HF.

27th February 1974.

Mr. E.P. Newman,  
6450 Cecil Avenue,  
St. Louis 5,  
Missouri,  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Dear Eric,

The continuing saga of Patrick's pence ....

1. Grover really cannot remember whether a. he delivered Sutton's coins to Wallis's personally with the manuscript or whether b. they were sent direct to Wallis's and thence back to Grover, who at this time did their coin cataloguing for them. He would have thought a. but in view of you chatting up the girl in the office is quite prepared to believe b.
2. That the proceeds were paid to Sutton c/o Grover substantiates Grover's memory as being right, for he did not think he even took an introductory commission. Why should Sutton have thanked Wallis for a good price - he didn't know it was a good price. Nor would he have known that it broke a record.
3. Grover does not know Anthony Foley although he has heard the name, he believes as a gun dealer. He doesn't think Sutton knows Foley. Grover doesn't know Jane Block and wouldn't know whether Sutton does.
4. If the gold piece is from the same dies as proven silver forgeries, that settles it. No, I haven't read your article, which I would be interested to read.
5. Grover joint-purchased the G. Blake gold ingot with Crowther from an impeccable source in the City (Godfather of one of the Queen's children and all that). Crowther placed the piece in a Leu sale, at which point John Ford had the piece withdrawn as a forgery. Grover tells me he pronounced false the letter from the family giving details of the history of the piece.

I must send on the weights for you some time.

Yours sincerely,



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

March 4, 1982

REGISTERED MAIL

International Numismatic Society  
P. O. Box 19386  
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Skip and Charles:

You gave us an easy problem. You will note that both coins you sent have the same 10.29 specific gravity. They were both made from the same metal mixture in England about 1962 from forged dies.

952-L Oak Tree Shilling 4.90261 grams. 10.29 Sp. gr. If obverse is turned on horizontal axis reverse is 270 degrees offset. Heavy open planchet crack at 6:30 on obverse and 8:30 on reverse. This piece is from forged dies made in England. It is fully described in the February, 1963 Numismatist in an article I wrote. We have an extensive file on the pieces.

951-L Mark Newly farthing in silver 7.35305 grams. 10.29 Sp. gr. Edge filed instead of milled. This piece is from forged dies made in England. It is fully described in the May, 1963 Numismatist in an article I wrote. There is a forgery in gold from the same dies. We have an extensive file on the pieces. Many dealers have tried to confuse the issue.

The coins are returned. If you need more detail after examining the articles, please feel free to ask.

We hope we have been of service.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

jah

Encls.



# AUCTIONS BY BOWERS AND MERENA, INC.



October 26, 1987

BOX 1224

WOLFEBORO, NH 03894

(603) 569-5095

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric:

At long last I have received back the "Gold St. Patrick's Farthing", along with the results of x-ray spectrographic tests done on two opposite positions on the obverse of the piece. I have enclosed a xerox of the x-ray test results. As you will see, the results are ambiguous when compared to the Specific Gravity reading of the piece, and I can only explain the discrepancy by enrichment of the surface through molecular migration of gold. It is certainly not a gold-plated silver piece!

Technical analysis of the piece, enlarged photographs of which are enclosed, reveals the following:

1. Diameter: 22.9 mm at its widest point.
2. Die Axis (ie, alignment of reverse die, assuming obverse die points directly north, or to the 0° position): 350°.
3. Weight: 125.1 grains; 8.11 grams.
4. There is no sign of filing along the edge; the piece appears to have been struck without a collar.
5. The apparent undertype visible beneath the letters PLEB on the reverse is an artifact of double striking. The coin shows that the reverse die rotated 10° approximately to the right after the first impression, resulting in clear doubling in those letters.

The fineness yielded by the Specific Gravity test is almost identical to that of a sovereign of the Victorian era, whose statutory fineness was .9167 gold. However, the weight of this piece at 8.11 grams is too high for the statutory weight of a sovereign (7.98805 grams, +/- 0.01296 grams. Additionally, the sovereign should contain by statute .0833 parts per thousand copper. Assuming that the piece in question actually contained slightly more than 4% silver, as the x-ray spectrographic tests suggest, the silver content of this piece is anomalous in a post 1817 sovereign.

Compared to the weight of an English guinea struck after 1670, the weight of this piece at 8.11 grams is close to that of a guinea, whose standard weight was 8.3880 grams. Additionally, it is known that the guinea was alloyed with both silver and copper, which corresponds to the x-ray test results yielded on this present piece (if they have any validity at all, that is). However, at a diameter of

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WORLD'S LARGEST ORGANIZATION FOR COLLECTORS OF COINS, TOKENS, MEDALS & PAPER MONEY

## CERTIFICATION SERVICE

Written in our 96th Year

October 23, 1987

Bowers & Merena, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1224  
Wolfeboro, NH. 03894

Dear Mr. Hodder:

Please find enclosed your Gold St. Patrick Farthing.

The results are as follows:

Test #1 10:00 Obverse  
AU 94.43%  
AG 4.67%  
CU .89%

Test #2 4:00 Obverse  
AU 95.06%  
AG 4.07%  
CU .89%

The Specific Gravity is 17.63 which would place this coin at a lower gold content than the surface analysis would suggest. This ambiguity could be the results of several factors.

1. Varying concentrations of alloy, (which is why we tested in two areas.)
2. Air bubbles or impurities within the coin; not probable but possible.
3. Plated coin; we see no evidence of this.

I hope this information is of some help to you.

Sincerely,

  
J.P. Martin

ANACS Authenticator/Grader

JPM/lm

Enclosure

Page 2

Mr. Eric P. Newman

22.9 mm, this "Gold St. Patrick's Farthing" is nearly 2 mm smaller than the guinea of 1670-1817. It seems to me that it is unlikely that this piece was struck on a guinea flan of the referenced period, as a reduction in diameter of nearly 2 mm would, I feel, require a greater weight reduction than the approximately .3 grams weight difference between this piece and the standard weight of the guinea of the period.

It seems to me that if this is indeed a struck counterfeit, as you feel it is, then the forger was careful to use an alloy of nearly exact proportions as to be expected for the period the piece was supposed to have been struck in; yet did not use the simple expedient of shaving a guinea of the period and striking on the reduced weight flan.

I eagerly await your opinion about this piece, and whatever you can tell me about the notorious auction sale of counterfeit St. Patrick's pieces you described.

I will need to have your comments and opinions on this piece by the beginning of December, if a decision is to be made whether to include or exclude this piece from the next Norweb Sale.

Yours truly,



Michel Hodder  
Director  
Auctions by Bowers and Merena, Inc.

Enclosures: as stated

MH/co





ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

2850 Cecil Avenue St. Louis, Missouri 63114

November 16, 1987

Bowers and Merena, Inc.  
Box 1224  
Wolfeboro, NH 03894

Attention: Mr. Michel Hodder

Re: Gold St. Patrick 1/4d

Dear Michel:

Your 26 October 1987 request for our opinion and comments about the Norweb gold St. Patrick farthing brings back old memories. We thank you for the data from the recent tests.

As you know, I wrote an article entitled "A Snake Breeds a St. Patrick's Farthing" for the May 1963 Numismatist, asserting that the silver St. Patrick's farthing then appearing in a new variety was a modern forgery. I sought the source as part of the research and learned that one was bought by Dr. Henry C. Fattel of North Bergen, N. J. on a visit to London in June 1962 from Anthony Foley at a hotel room appointment. Fattel had bought from Gordon White a forgery of a Massachusetts Oak Tree Shilling in London in 1961. We asked Fattel to contact Foley on the source of St. Patrick item which Fattel did and Foley did not respond.

A competent numismatic friend of mine named Q. David Bowers was nice enough to contact Anthony Foley in England about the silver St. Patrick and Bowers reported to me in March 1964 that Foley admitted selling the coin to Fattel, that the British Museum said it was OK and that no refund would be made because Foley wasn't sure whether it was or wasn't good.

No one to my knowledge has otherwise challenged our opinion that the silver St. Patricks described were forgeries. The gold St. Patrick located in England was unknown to me when I wrote the article, but I did know of the genuine gold St. Patrick of a different variety in the Boyd collection and which was subsequently illustrated in the August 24, 1976 Stack sale as lot #21.

The silver forgeries are from the same pair of dies as the Norweb gold St. Patrick. The silver forgeries have an undecorated edge as does the Norweb gold St. Patrick, but other genuine St. Patrick pieces have striated edges. The gold and silver St. Patricks also have the same 10 degree die offsets.

In June 1966, I visited William Seaby, then numismatic keeper, etc., at the Belfast, Ireland Museum and he gave me a plaster cast of the gold St. Patrick, which cast was sent to him by Spinks (copies enclosed).

Bowers and Merena, Inc.  
November 16, 1987  
Page 2 -

On July 5, 1966, I visited the office of Wallis and Wallis, All Saints House, 210 High Street, Lewes, Sussex, England, and asked to see their 1962 auction catalogs. D. J. Fryer told me he was the auctioneer and remembered the gold St. Patrick. Correspondence copies describing some of the events are enclosed. I was virtually thrown out of the office of Wallis and Wallis after asking to see the check for the remittance of the proceeds, but not until I had copied the entry in the 1 March 1962 sale catalog #89: "365. An Irish St. Patrick Farthing struck in gold, about VF & A copper ditto with brass plug. Fair (2)." I was told that Liddel of Spinks and Brian Grover bid each other up to reach the £500 sale price, and Grover had originally told Spinks about the appearance of the piece and the check for the sale price was sent to Maurice Sutton in care of Grover. Draw your own conclusions.

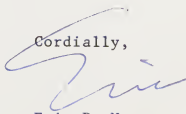
We have an extensive file on this matter as you may surmise. A few copies of other letters are enclosed. Sherlock Holmes was not at the Baker Street address when I needed him desperately.

Richard Picker had seen the silver St. Patrick and referred to the tiny insignia on the St. Patrick side as two swept back wing aircraft mating in flight. This is evident on the gold piece and resulted in my opinion from the touch up work on the impact dies which were the vogue in English made forgeries and counterfeits then. Our opinion is that the St. Patrick gold piece from Spinks is without doubt a forgery. It should not be sold in our opinion as it has deceived too many people already, including Emery Mae who understood such problems. I have not seen the coin itself, but from the pictures and the data furnished to me and my experience with all the characters involved, there is no other conclusion.

We hope we have been helpful and will be glad to give you further detail if you wish. We are glad to cooperate with you in matters which are so exciting and stimulating.

Our best to all of you.

Cordially,



Eric P. Newman

jah

Encls.

3/4/88

Re: New Jersey gold piece

Mike Hodder called me. Said Dave was in Washington at a Tri State convention. He asked me about 1792 patterns and I told him what I had.

I then said that I thought his writeup of the St Patrick gold piece in the Norweb Sale Catalog was very wrong; that he had much more info from me which he didn't mention; that he had made a mistake in omitting what else I had furnished, etc. He said he would start a larger controversy if the materials I sent were used because some of the people are still living. I told him I wasn't planning to answer his arguments or point out his omissions, unless someone asked me in which case I would have no hesitation in showing the defects in his assertions. He said that no one would think it was genuine but I told him I thought it was wrong to give Spink's opinion and Norweb's opinion and his own doubts if he really thought what he said.

He then asserted that he had doubts about Ford's gold piece which was withdrawn from a 1976 sale after a \$40,000 bid. He said Ford says he has copper pieces from the same dies as the gold and Hodder thinks those are questionable too even though the gold piece is far heavier than the Norweb and has a pedigree back to 1909.

He said there are 183 dies of St Patrick faulting and that none he was familiar with matched the Norweb gold. I said there could be many more varieties if there were 183 known varieties as I told him I thought the dies for the gold piece and the silver pieces of 1962 were made by impact from an original or an electro and then the die was reengraved.

I ended by saying we would still be friends but that I believe he made a major error.

SPN



3/10/88 10<sup>15</sup> AM

Henry Nowell telephoned me from Cleveland. He had spoken to Dave Brines whom he said surprised at the Nowell call about the St Pat gold coin. He said he wanted to call me to ask if it was OK for Dave to call me and I said Dave could call me anytime with or without Nowell's suggesting it. Henry was concerned that I was disturbed about the matter. I told Henry I thought Hodder had made a serious mistake in not giving many of the facts I went to the trouble of sending him after he requested them. I told him I had spoken to Hodder already because Hodder had called me about another matter and that I told Hodder he made a mistake by not giving any of the data on the gold coin I gave him. I was told that Henry thought Hodder was abrasive in other ways matters in which they had been in contact. I told him Hodder worked for Spinks once and that Hodder told me some of the people in my letters were still alive. I explained to Nowell that I was not disturbed but did not wish to get into a fight with anyone for making a mistake like this. Nowell said he would call Dave and tell him to call me.

Within a few moments after I hung up from the Nowell call Dave called. He finally said he had read my letter to Hodder but nothing other enclosures. I told him the same things I told to Nowell. Dave suggested that they could read something which I could write - and read it at the auction before the lot was sold, or it could be put in Colonial Newsletter, I told him I would not do that because it was up to him & Nowell to decide in what to do as both knew that all the facts were not put in by Hodder. Dave said if he & Henry decided to withdraw the piece & give it to NWS as a study piece was that OK with me. I said of course. I told him there was no hard feeling regardless what happened but that a serious mistake was made. We then talked about the gold piece being in a country auction and Dave said that was called "laundering" the coin to give it a source. I also mentioned that Dave had helped me track down some of those involved and he obviously had read that in my letter.

Edw

# AUCTIONS BY BOWERS AND MERENA, INC.



March 11, 1988

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

BOX 1224  
WOLFEBORO, NH 03894  
(603) 569-5095  
Fax line: (603) 569-5319

Dear Eric:

The controversy surrounding the Norweb St. Patricks piece struck in gold is unfortunate. I wish, when we had last spoken together, last week, that I had known how strongly you felt about my catalogue description of the piece. When we finished our conversation, I distinctly remember your saying to me that you were not intending to say anything about your feelings about the piece unless asked. Presumably, your feelings became stronger over the following weekend.

I understand from Dave that you feel that the tone of my description was intended to "protect" Spink and Son, Ltd., and indirectly, Douglas Liddell, my former employers. I was quite surprised to hear Dave relay this to me, as I had not even considered the question of ill repute redounding to Spink and Liddell. I should say, categorically, that this was not, is not, and will never be no matter where I might be in the future, a motive for casting any catalogue description I might write in a favorable or unfavorable light. I believe in the veracity of data correctly gathered, and in my descriptions in catalogues and published work elsewhere, I have no concern whatsoever for the reputations, feelings, or personal niceties of any individual or firm who may be affected by the factual data in my work.

If my own work is shown to be inaccurate, I will swallow my pride, and be the first to admit my mistake publicly. I expect the same from others. If the St. Patricks piece turns out to be false, and I did not catalogue it as genuine, my opinion of Douglas Liddell will neither rise nor fall. I know him to be an honorable person, a representative of the old school of British dealers, and his retirement marks the passing of a way of doing business more congenial and gentlemanly than that which prevails today.

Regarding the correspondence file you sent me, containing copies of correspondence between yourself and Baldwin's, etc., this information was not "surpressed" from the catalogue description at all. In fact, I looked forward very eagerly to receiving it, as I expected it to prove conclusively that the St. Patricks piece was indeed a forgery foisted on the collecting fraternity in the early 1960s through a sale in an obscure English country auction house. When the file arrived, I was quite disappointed to find that it did not contain anything conclusively pointing to the authenticity or lack thereof of this piece. I can only assume that the correspondence contained therein would have more import to one who was

*Your friends in the rare coin business*

March 11, 1988

present on the scene at the time. Clearly, there is much unwritten in the correspondence, and much must be read between the lines, to believe that the file absolutely establishes the counterfeit nature of the piece. Obviously, there are questions about the piece raised in the file which are disturbing, but there are, conversely, no answers to these questions provided. There is, in other words, nothing in the file, at least in my mind, that, once published, would lead a dispassionate observer to conclude that the piece is absolutely fake. And this is the very simple reason why I did not publish any of this information in the catalogue description. There was, simply, to my mind nothing publishable in it. That Douglas Liddell bought the coin from Wallis & Wallis, and later sold it to Mrs. Norweb for a substantial profit, would not have been enough to persuade me not to publish the information, had there been something absolutely germane in it. As I said above, I am no respecter of persons when it comes to numismatic fact.

At the end of our conversation last week, you stated that as far as you were concerned, our relationship was still on a sound footing. I trust that this is so today, and may remain so in the future. I am, as you may have gathered, one of your "fans", with a great respect for the work you have done over the years on colonial era coinages. Despite the current controversy surrounding this piece, which I feel to be unfortunate, my respect for your work will not diminish. I am somewhat hurt by the fact that you felt it necessary to call upon R. Henry Norweb, Jr.'s aid in this matter. Further, I feel it to be even more unfortunate that the piece will not be offered for sale. As far as I am concerned, one of the best tests for the authenticity or lack thereof of the specimen is the marketplace in general.

I hope a similar situation will not arise between us in the future. I certainly will not do anything to create one. However, should you feel strongly about some aspect of my published work, I would be most grateful if you would share these feelings with me, I am certain that, between the two of us, any controversy that might arise in the future can be more amicably settled.

Yours truly,



Michael J. Hodder  
Director  
Research Department

MJH/mkv

# AUCTIONS BY BOWERS AND MERENA, INC.



March 11, 1988

BOX 1224  
WOLFEBORO, NH 03894  
(603) 569-5095  
Fax line: (603) 569-5319

Mr. R. Henry Norweb, Jr.  
822 National City Bank Building  
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

Dear Henry:

Following our conversation of yesterday afternoon, Lot 2386 of your sale will be withdrawn, and at the sale itself an announcement similar to the following will be made:

"Lot 2386 has been withdrawn from the sale and will be presented by the Norweb family to the collection of the American Numismatic Society."

All good wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Q. David Bowers  
Chairman  
Auctions by Bowers and Merena, Inc.

QDB/mkv

Copies to:  
Eric P. Newman  
Michael J. Hodder

*Your friends in the rare coin business*

R. HENRY NORWEB, JR.  
822 NATIONAL CITY BANK BUILDING  
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44114

March 14, 1988

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63101

Dear Eric:

It was good to hear your voice on the telephone last Thursday. We still regret that we will not be with you at the Explorer's Club dinner.

When great minds get together usually matters are resolved successfully. In this case, I would like you to know that the St. Patrick's Guinea will be withdrawn at the forthcoming sale with a statement being made that it is being withdrawn for donation to the American Numismatic Society for "study" purposes.

This seems an excellent way to go and I am very grateful that the whole matter came to my attention.

All best wishes.

Yours sincerely,



R. Henry Norweb, Jr.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

March 15, 1988

Mr. Michael J. Hodder  
Bowers and Merena, Inc.  
P. O. Box 1224  
Wolfeboro, NH 03894

Re: St. Patrick Gold Piece

Dear Michael:

I have read your 11 March 1988 letter and obviously both of us have numismatic scholarship as a goal. Differences of opinion in difficult matters are customary and I do everything I can to avoid any personal feelings arising out of such differences. I am satisfied that our relationship will continue on a "sound footing" as you expressed it in your letter.

I did not originally intend to make a direct response to your writeup of the St. Patrick gold coin in the Norweb catalog as it might have been deemed obtrusive to do so and I did not have prior knowledge of its content. When you telephoned me on March 4, 1988 asking me about a 1792 pattern matter, you said that you thought you would have heard from me on the St. Patrick matter. I told you that I thought you made a serious mistake by omitting any mention of any part of the material I prepared and sent you on 16 November 1987, following your 26 October 1987 request. I explained that I then had no intention of debating your printed comments, so long as no one else raised the issue, but if anyone else did, then I would feel it advisable to go into the matter further.

You stated that I called R. Henry Norweb, Jr. to aid in this matter, but the facts are that I did not call him or write him or tell anyone else to do so. He contacted me by telephone on 10 March 1988. I told him my view of the situation. He asked me if David could call me about it and I said that I felt David would feel free to call me anytime on any matter without any need for clearance.

You stated that you feel it is unfortunate that the piece is not offered for sale because that is one of the best tests for authenticity or lack thereof. I totally disagree. You offered the piece in the catalog on an AS IS basis and a purchase at such an auction at any price does not in my opinion relate to its genuineness.

In your extensive analysis of the points in the "snake" article I wrote in May 1963, you did not point out that the source of the silver St. Patrick pieces was the same source as the Oak Tree Shilling forgeries which I wrote up in a February 1963 article. I feel that was important and also that subsequent requests by me and on my behalf for information from those sources was not forthcoming.

Mr. Michael J. Hodder  
March 15, 1988  
Page 2 -

I also feel that for the reader's information you specifically should have pointed out that the then new variety of several silver St. Patricks and the same variety of gold St. Patrick were previously unknown.

This letter is not intended to respond to your comments as to the "snake" article on the merits, but a few other remarks might be justified.

In our view a most important omission is that your writeup did not give any matters I developed after I originally learned about the St. Patrick gold coin. You state that you decided that there was nothing publishable in them. You wanted positive proof of falseness and not getting that to satisfy you, you rejected all the material furnished. Is that sound when your writeup challenging the "snake" points is admittedly an interpretive evaluation of evidence?

The impression you give that you believe the gold piece is authentic is very strong. You preface your comments to give the reader "an understanding of the authenticity of this present Norweb specimen". That is a firm opinion. You say that Spinks and the Norwebs considered the piece genuine, but I believe neither group has written any opinion or factual statement of what they knew so that anyone could review it. Spinks investigated the piece as I wrote you in my 11 November 1987 letter, but their file probably contains no opinion on the coin. Their sale of it indicates that they felt it was genuine. Yet after all of the foregoing, the Norweb piece was to be sold "AS IS".

The withdrawal of the piece from sale and the gift by the Norwebs to ANS is in my opinion a good solution.

I am sure each of us understands the point of view of the other and that we can go on to the study of other fascinating numismatic items with continuing cooperation and respect for one another's findings and points of view.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

jah

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

March 16, 1988

Mr. Leslie A. Elam  
American Numismatic Society  
Broadway at 156th Street  
New York, NY 10032

Dear Leslie:

In view of the fact that the ANS is going to be given the St. Patrick gold coin belonging to the Norweb estate, I am sending you past and present correspondence relating to the matter. If there is anything further you need which can be found in our files, please let me know.

I hope that what I have done in this matter is proper.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric P. Newman", with a stylized, flowing script.

Eric P. Newman

jah

Encls.



CABLE ADDRESS  
NUMISMA NEW YORK



TELEPHONE  
212 234 - 3130

# THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

(FOUNDED 1858 • INCORPORATED 1865)

BROADWAY AT 155<sup>TH</sup> STREET

NEW YORK · N.Y. 10032

March 16, 1988

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.  
Post Office Box 14020  
St. Louis, Missouri 63178

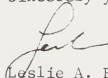
Dear Eric,

I trust that by now Henry has called you and confirmed what I told you about the Newby coin.

Enclosed is the press release regarding the Oechsner gift including the press photo and an actual size photo as well. The piece weighs 7.79 gram; specific gravity to follow. We are hoping that you can find enough of interest in this specimen to warrant an article for, say, The Colonial Newsletter. It would be good to publicize the piece thus.

Judi and I look forward to seeing you on the 26th.

Sincerely yours,

  
Leslie A. Elam  
Director

LAE:lw  
Encl.

# AUCTIONS BY BOWERS AND MERENA, INC.

March 22, 1988

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

BOX 1224  
WOLFEBORO, NH 03894  
(603) 569-5095  
Fax line: (603) 569-5319

Dear Eric:

Thank you very much for your letter of March 15, in reply to mine of March 11. I am happy to hear that our relationship will continue to be a cooperative one. I have much to learn in the field of numismatics, as I am relatively new to the study, and you know that I hold you and your opinions in very high regard.

It was my understanding that R. Henry Norweb, Jr. became involved in this matter as a result of a telephone call from you to him. As you say this was not the case, then I was incorrect, and must apologize for the inaccuracy. I can only imagine that Henry must have read the description of the gold Saint Patrick piece and thought to call you.

It is true that my personal feelings incline toward the authenticity of the coin, despite its association with known forgeries and the extensive correspondence you kindly sent me on the subject. I must admit that my feelings for the coin do show through in the catalogue description, although I did my best to alert the reader that the piece was not only controversial, but also fatally flawed, because of its lack of a reeded edge. You know that I do not feel that the withdrawal of the piece is a good idea, but it is now a fait accompli, and I must live with my feelings about that.

I am on my way to the Norweb Sale now; from all I hear, the sale will be a great success. (I will have my secretary send this letter out over my signature to expedite delivery.)

All my best.

Yours truly,

*Michael J. Hodder*  
MJD

Michael J. Hodder  
Director  
Research Department

MJH/mkv

*Your friends in the rare coin business*

CABLE ADDRESS  
"NUMISMA" NEW YORK



TELEPHONE  
(212) 234 - 3130

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY  
(FOUNDED 1858 • INCORPORATED 1865)  
BROADWAY AT 155<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
NEW YORK · N.Y. 10032

March 31, 1988

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.  
Post Office Box 14020  
St. Louis, Missouri 63178

Dear Eric,

Many thanks for a delightful evening. Judi and I will long remember it.

I have your copy of Hodder's letter. I plan to wait and in the context of acknowledging the Norweb gift, inform him that it was I who initiated Henry's involvement in this. I think that is the best resolution.

We look forward to seeing you at the Council meeting on the 16th.

Sincerely yours,

  
Leslie A. Elam  
Director

LAE:lw

# Gold Mark Newby Memo

7/13/38 Mike Hodde, of ~~Brown~~ + Merena  
telephoned me as to some Confederate matters  
and voluntarily raised the subject of the  
MARK NEWBY NEW JERSEY ~~FORGERY~~ MATTER

He said he had just seen a Silver Mark Newby  
of the identical die to the gold one in the Norweb collection  
and that it was clearly a forgery. He said he  
had never seen one before and that if he had he  
would never have said what he did in cataloging  
the gold piece in the Norweb sale. He said that  
he agreed fully with me that the gold piece also  
was a forgery and apologizing for all the  
arguments he had with me and for the mistake  
he made.

I told him I had not seen the gold forgery  
when I wrote up the silver forgeries. He told me he  
had not seen the silver forgery when he wrote up the  
gold one (which I knew). I told him in these difficult  
areas a mistake was always possible.

SPN

CABLE ADDRESS  
"NUMISMA" NEW YORK



TELEPHONE  
(212) 234 - 3130

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY  
(FOUNDED 1858 • INCORPORATED 1865)  
BROADWAY AT 155TH STREET  
NEW YORK · N.Y. 10032

September 7, 1988

Mr. Michael J. Hodder  
Director, Research Department  
Bowers and Merena, Inc.  
Box 1224  
Wolfeboro, NH 03894

Dear Michael,

I have today acknowledged to Ray the safe receipt of the St. Patrick Guinea from the Norweb Collection. We have a short note in our Summer Newsletter on this gift.

You are probably aware that I called Eric Newman after I read your catalogue entry and his 1963 article which you cite extensively. As a result of my conversation with Eric, I took it upon myself to call Henry Norweb directly to express my concern to him about the piece. In turn, Henry called Eric following which I guess he talked to Dave and yourself and then made the decision to withdraw the piece from the sale. I feel the piece has found its proper home but this probably is not your opinion after the great amount of work that you put into this particular object.

Speaking of your research work, I was quite impressed with the suggestions that you made on the Mossman manuscript. I have written to Dr. Mossman to express our interest in possibly publishing this work when he has completed the revisions and emendations. I feel more attracted to the work knowing that it has passed scrutiny by so many experts in the field. I must add however that Dr. Mossman has not committed the manuscript to the Society and I understand he is exploring several publication opportunities.

Sincerely yours,

Leslie A. Elam  
Director

LAE/aa

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

September 12, 1988

Mr. Leslie A. Elam  
Director  
The American Numismatic Society  
Broadway at 155th Street  
New York, NY 10032

Dear Leslie:

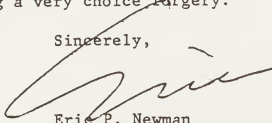
Thank you for sending me your letter of September 7, 1988 to Michael J. Hodder with respect to the gold St. Patrick's farthing. I appreciate being kept informed.

You certainly played a major role in having this item withdrawn from the Norweb sale and donated to the Society.

To straighten out your impression of Michael's present thinking, I wish to tell you that recently Michael telephoned me and reported that for the first time he had seen a silver striking from the identical dies and that he was now convinced that those silver and gold pieces were forgeries. I am glad that he is flexible enough to change his position completely. He might be willing to write you to that effect.

Congratulations on acquiring a very choice ~~for~~gery.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Eric P. Newman", written over a horizontal line.

Eric P. Newman

EPN:bv

## ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

*6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63103*

John M. Griffiee  
5612 SW 89<sup>th</sup> Place  
Ocala, FL 34476

August 28, 2000

Stan Stephens  
1469 Fenwick St.  
Star City, WV 26505

In the C4 Newsletter p. 48 for Summer 2000 you asked for any help on your projects. It was fun providing help heretofore and I admire what you are doing and how you are doing it.

You should not omit the details on the modern forgeries of the farthing piece in silver and in gold. I believe I wrote up the forgery in "A snake breeds a St. Patrick Farthing" (1963). The gold forgery was "sold" for "£500" by Wallis & Wallis in a country auction in Lewes, England. This was apparently a planted coin and a fictitious sale to give it provenance as you probably know. Was it from the same die as the silver forgeries? Were they made in America? The dies were probably made by transfer from a copper piece. What variety was it?

Whatever you know you should write up for me to review, I believe. I do not know what you know already, so it is your next move.

Keep working hard on your fine project,

Eric P. Newman

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

John M. Griffiee  
5612 SW 89<sup>th</sup> Place  
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Star City, WV 26505

In the C4 Newsletter p. 48 for Summer 2000 you asked for any help on your projects. It was fun providing help heretofore and I admire what you are doing and how you are doing it.

You should not omit the details on the modern forgeries of the farthing piece in silver and in gold. I believe I wrote up the forgery in "A snake breeds a St. Patrick Farthing" (1963). The gold forgery was "sold" for "£500" by Wallis & Wallis in a country auction in Lewes, England. This was apparently a planted coin and a fictitious sale to give it provenance as you probably know. Was it from the same die as the silver forgeries? Were they made in America? The dies were probably made by transfer from a copper piece. What variety was it?

Whatever you know you should write up for me to review, I believe. I do not know what you know already, so it is your next move.

Keep working hard on your fine project,



Eric P. Newman



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

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September 7, 2000

Stan Stephens  
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Star City, WV 26505

My memory and records indicate that the false gold St. Patrick farthing I wrote you about was sold to Emery May Norweb by Spinks. When her estate was auctioned by Bowers in 1988 the coin was listed as Lot# 2386. It was withdrawn before the sale at my suggestion and donated by Mrs. Norweb to the American Numismatic Society for study where it should be now.

I believe it is important to determine from your new studies exactly what copper variety it matches and whether that variety ties into silver pieces. The devilment should be analyzed carefully.

Please keep us informed.

<b>Subj:</b> Your Messages <b>Date:</b> 03/06/2001 4:11:30 PM Central Standard Time <b>From:</b> kbressett@pcisys.net (Ken Bressett) <b>To:</b> ericnumis@aol.com
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Hi Eric,

Thanks for sending me all of that great information about the St. Patrick token. Now I know where some of the snakes went when they left Ireland.

I went into the New York Times web page and was able to print out the entire article on the Mexico bar, along with the color pictures, etc. A copy is now in my file. I appreciate the tip-off on this because I would have missed it otherwise. Sometimes I just can't believe what this computer is capable of doing. Too bad we didn't have such abilities years ago.

Ken Bressett

Colorado Springs, CO, USA

kbressett@pcisys.net

----- Headers -----

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